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THE Livestock and Meat SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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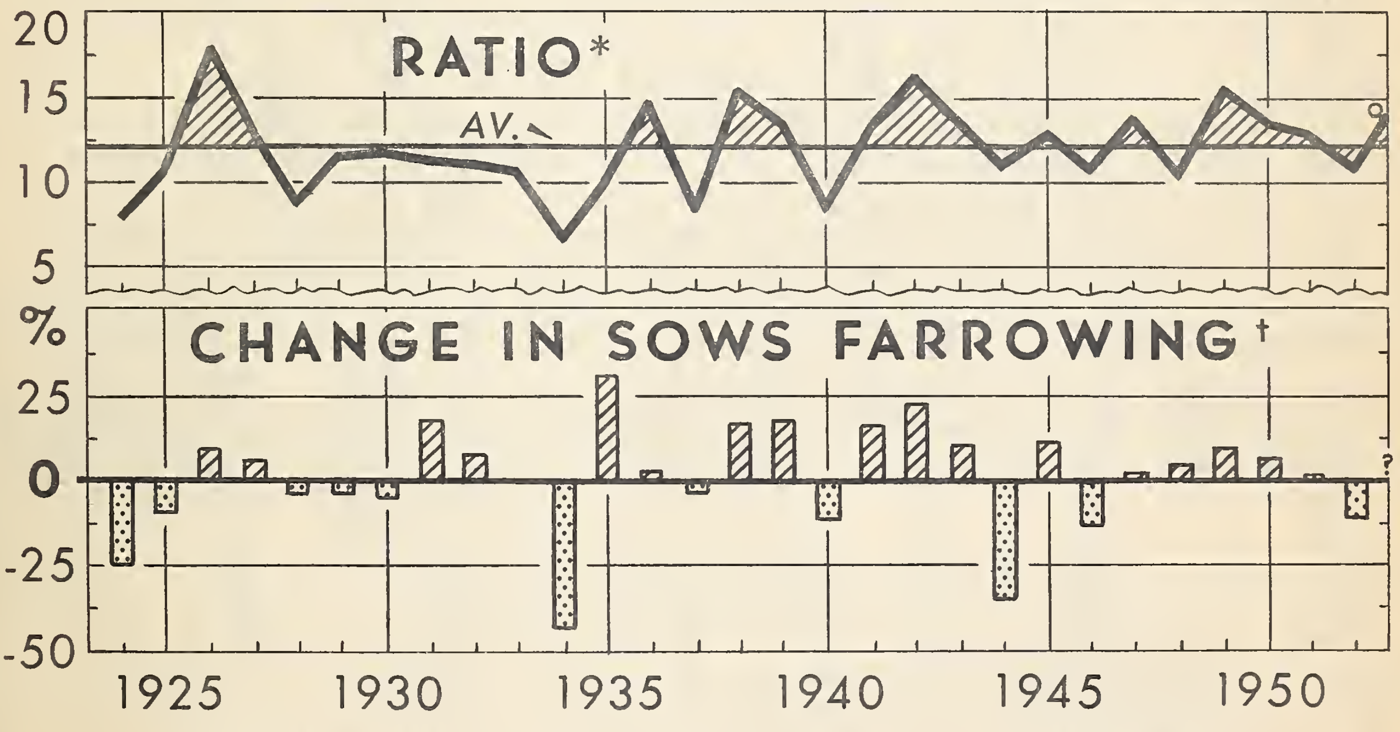

INFLUENCE OF HOG-CORN RATIO ON FALL FARROWING

* HOG-CORN PRICE RATIO, MARCH-JULY, U. S. FARM BASIS ° PARTLY FORECAST
† CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR IN SOWS FARROWING FALL PIGS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 46732-XX BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Prices of hogs have been a fourth above last year and the hog-corn ratio in April was the highest since September 1950. These price relationships, along with the recent declines in cattle prices, promise an increase in the number of sows to farrow this fall. Farrowings beginning mid-fall seem likely to exceed those a year earlier.

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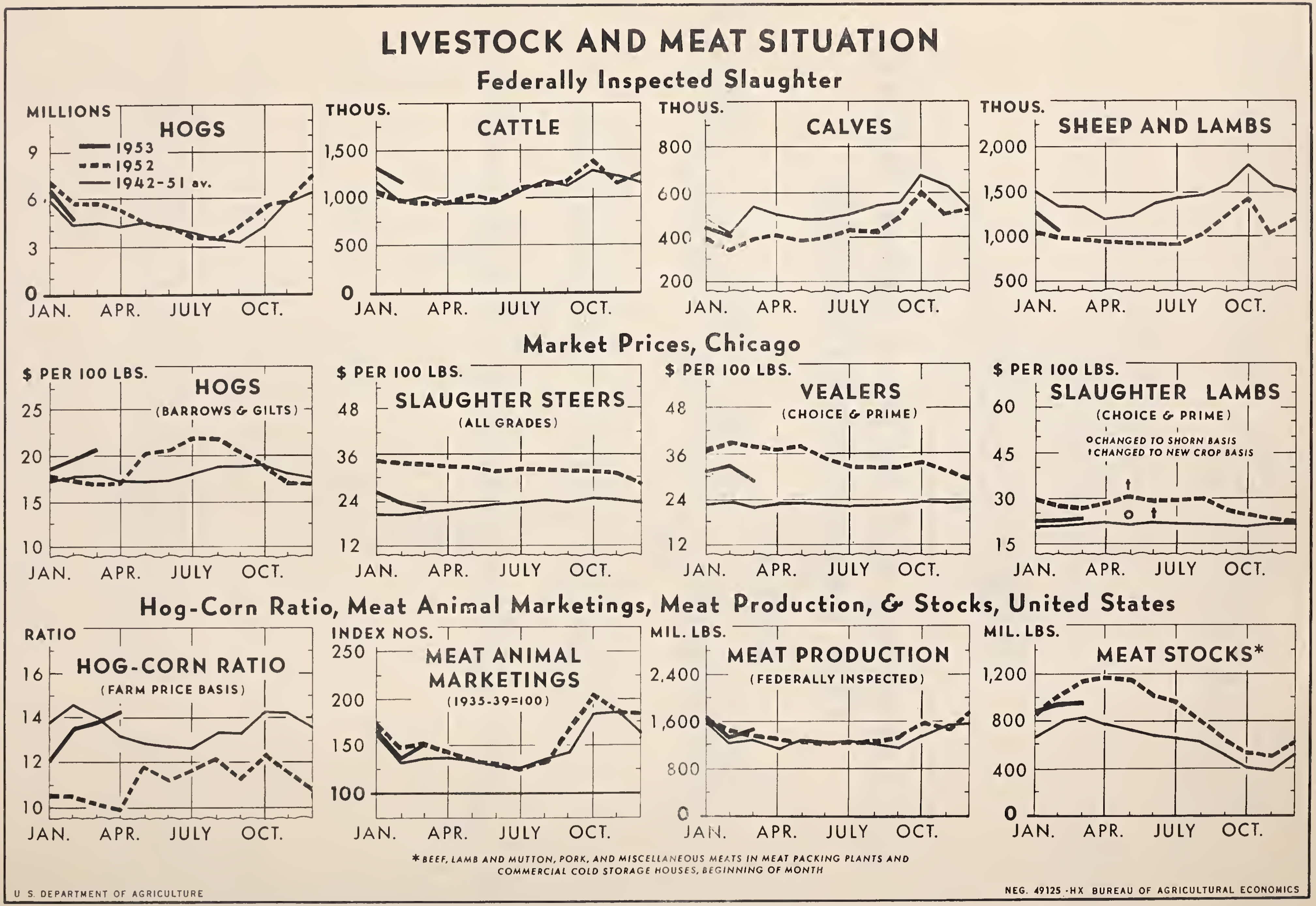


LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

*BEEF, LAMB AND MUTTON, PORK, AND MISCELLANEOUS MEATS IN MEAT PACKING PLANTS AND COMMERCIAL COLD STORAGE HOUSES, BEGINNING OF MONTH

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 49125-HX BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, April 29, 1953

SUMMARY

Cattle and calf slaughter has averaged about 25 percent above a year ago since January 1 and in April showed an even larger gain. It will continue considerably higher than last year though probably by a somewhat smaller percentage. Hog slaughter, on the other hand, in recent months has been 15 percent below last year. Slaughter the rest of the year will likely be 12 to 15 percent under 1952. Slaughter of sheep and lambs, like that of cattle, has exceeded last year. It now appears likely to continue above last year for some time but may drop below the 1952 slaughter rate later. Sheep numbers are probably being reduced again in the Plains States.

With more beef, veal and lamb but less pork, total meat production has averaged about 3 percent above the corresponding period of 1952. Production will probably continue a little above last year and the 1953 total is expected to be up enough to offset the increase in population and allow consumption per person to about equal the 144 pounds of last year.

More cattle from both range areas and feedlots have been marketed in the last few months than a year earlier. Since about 12-14 percent more cattle were on feed on April 1 than on the same date of 1952, marketings of fed cattle will be larger than last year through the spring and summer. Since January 1 fewer cattle have been placed on feed than a year ago and fed cattle marketings this fall will not be as much above last year as they have been recently. Marketings of cattle off grass will begin to increase seasonally this summer and will likely exceed last year substantially. Because of poor returns from cattle feeding this past winter, demand for feeder stock will probably be weaker this fall than last. It is possible that not quite as many grass cattle will go on feed. More will go directly to slaughter.

Prices of stocker and feeder cattle declined in April after having been comparatively stable for several months, but are still in a rather high relationship to prices of fed cattle. A more normal spread or relationship is likely to develop during the next several months. Prices of fed cattle, though hardly likely to recover much while marketings are at a seasonal peak, may show some seasonal strength this fall. Stocker and feeder prices may take an opposite trend. While probably fluctuating considerably, they will likely move seasonally lower this summer to a somewhat lower level this fall than last fall.

Prices for hogs have been about a fourth higher than a year ago. After a moderate seasonal decline this spring, prices will probably increase seasonally during the summer.

These are indications that total meat production will continue its uptrend in 1954. Slaughter of cattle and calves is not yet equal to the rate of increase (births minus deaths) and is due to continue cyclically

upward. Hog production may be expanded this fall. With prices of hogs higher and of corn lower, the hog-corn price ratio this spring is considerably above last spring and above average. This points to a 1953 fall pig crop moderately larger than last fall, and to an increased slaughter of hogs in 1954.

In recent weeks through April 29, the Department of Agriculture has purchased 3,170,000 pounds of beef for the Mutual Security Agency to be delivered to Greece, and 798,000 pounds under Section 32 funds for surplus diversion, which will be donated to school lunches and other eligible outlets.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Cattle Slaughter up Sharply From Last Year; to Continue High

From January through March commercial cattle slaughter was 24 percent above last year. Slaughter in April was more than 40 percent above the rather small slaughter in April last year.

Slaughter of steers and heifers from both feeding and range areas has been large. January-March steer slaughter under Federal inspection surpassed all previous records for those months. However, no great number of cows has been slaughtered. Cows were a smaller percentage of Federally inspected cattle slaughter in January-March this year than in those months in 10 years of record.

The rate of cattle slaughter will continue high in future months but the increase above last year may average a little less than in the past 4 months. Slaughter increased greatly in the second half of 1952 and may not rise quite so fast this year.

Marketings of fed cattle, which have been particularly large since the first of March, will likely remain large until the big marketing season ends about late summer. Later fed cattle may be a dwindling proportion of the total number slaughtered. The shift from fed to grass cattle slaughtered will be partly a normal seasonal change, but it will also reflect the gradual retrenchment in volume of feeding. On January 1, 16 percent more cattle were on feed than a year earlier. Marketings since then have been greater than a year earlier and fewer cattle have gone on feed. For example, shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into 9 Corn Belt States from January-March were 13 percent smaller than a year ago. On April 1, 12-14 percent more cattle were on feed than last April. Marketings continued at a high rate and replacement at a low rate during April, as slaughter steer receipts at 3 Corn-Belt markets were up by more than 50 percent but feeder shipments from 8 markets down 5 to 10 percent from last year.

If movements to feedlots stay below last year and marketings continue larger, the supply of fed cattle for slaughter this fall will be down to nearer last year's level. But considerably more cattle off range and pasture will be slaughtered than last fall, as more will be marketed while fewer may go into feedlots for feeding. Because they experienced their most unprofitable feeding season this winter in many years, cattle feeders may reduce their program next fall.

Present Cattle Slaughter a Little Below Replacement Rate

If the January-April rate of slaughter should continue throughout the year, about 33 million cattle and calves would be slaughtered in 1953. The increase (births minus deaths) from the present cow herd is probably between 35 and 36 million. Thus, at the present slaughter rate a small addition to cattle numbers would result by the end of the year.

This may prove to be a year of heavy marketings of steers, heifers and calves. Corresponding increases in marketings of cows are unlikely, except in the event of drought. Inventory numbers of steers and heifers next December 31 may be little if any larger than a year earlier. Increases will be mostly in cows and calves. Liquidation of cows will probably not occur until a later year in the present cattle cycle.

Because slaughter will include more cattle off range and pasture this year, average weights of cattle slaughtered will be lighter. They are already below last year and will move lower.

Seasonal Divergence likely in Cattle Prices

Prices of various classes of grass cattle--stockers, feeders, calves and cows--were rather steady in late winter and early spring, having been sustained by seasonally strong demand for cattle to go on grass. However, weakness in prices of fed cattle was an important factor preventing the usual seasonal rise in the average price of range cattle and contributing to the recent decline. Prices of range and fed cattle have been unusually close together. In March and April feeder and stocker steers at Kansas City averaged 92 percent of the price of Choice steers at Chicago. As late as last December, they were only 66 percent of Choice steer prices.

A more normal relationship will likely appear in months ahead as prices of fed and grass cattle take opposite trends. After the bulk of fed cattle have been marketed their prices may strengthen somewhat seasonally. While fluctuating considerably, prices of stocker, feeder, and other cattle off grass are likely to make a general seasonal decline this summer and fall. By this fall they probably will again be considerably below the prices of fed steers.

Prices of cattle off grass this fall will be affected by a weaker demand for cattle to go into feed lots, and, like last fall, they will be sensitive to the strength of slaughter demand for cattle of this type. Last year outlets for Good and Commercial beef opened up only rather slowly. It remains to be seen whether the market will be more responsive this coming fall.

Hog Slaughter to Continue Below Last Year

From February through April hog slaughter has averaged about 15 percent below a year earlier. The reduction reflects the smaller pig crop of last fall. Slaughter will continue considerably below 1952. It may be especially small during the spring and summer. There will be fewer barrows and gilts because farrowings last October and November were sharply below the previous year. Also, because fewer are on hand and more will be held back for breeding, fewer sows will be slaughtered this summer than last.

Sheep Slaughter Above 1952

The rate of sheep and lamb slaughter, like that of cattle, has increased substantially over a year ago. Through April about 19 percent more sheep and lambs were slaughtered than in the same months of 1952. Marketings of fed lambs have been seasonally earlier than last year. California has been marketing a larger early lamb crop, and the movement of old crop lambs in Texas has also been up. If this rate of slaughter is continued, fewer sheep and lambs would be on farms at the end of the year than at the beginning. Last year sheep numbers were reduced in the dry regions of the Southern Plains, were about maintained in the Mountain and Pacific West, and were increased in the East. It is possible that approximately the same changes will be repeated in 1953 unless weather and range feed conditions in the Plains should improve this summer. It appears now that sheep and lamb slaughter may remain above last year through the summer. The seasonal increase in the fall may not be as great as a year earlier and slaughter may drop below the 1952 rate. Prices of lambs have increased considerably since late in 1952. Lamb prices will continue to be affected by the large slaughter of cattle, but may be generally more stable than cattle prices.

A seasonal decline in lamb prices is likely this summer and fall.

Total Meat Production a Little Above 1952

As production of beef and lamb has been substantially above last year but production of pork smaller, total meat output has exceeded a year ago by about 3 percent (table 1). A small margin of increase may persist. Meat supplies may be large enough for consumption per person to approximately equal the 144 pounds consumed in 1952. However, the composition will be much different. Consumption of beef per person may be up around 9 pounds and of veal 1 pound while consumption of pork may be reduced 10 or 11 pounds.

1953 Fall Pig Crop Promises to Exceed Last Year

Hog production has been on a downtrend for a year and a half. In each month since September 1951 fewer sows have farrowed than in the corresponding month a year earlier. The 1952 combined spring and fall pig crop was 10 percent below the big 1951 crop of 102 millions, and a further reduction is taking place in farrowings this spring. In December farmers' intentions were for 13 percent fewer sows to farrow than last spring. It will not be known until the pig crop report is released June 22 how nearly they followed their intentions.

Producers cut back on hog production for several reasons. Foremost was the continued depressed level of hog prices in relation to corn prices. In 1952 the United States average hog-corn price ratio was only 11.0, which was less than the long time average level and the lowest in 12 years. Other factors also discouraged production. Hog producers were harrassed by threat of disease, especially vesicular exanthema; they were aware of the increasing competition from the rising supply of beef; and finally, they had Government loans available to them on their corn crop, which in many cases appeared more attractive than the uncertain returns from feeding corn to hogs.

Hog production seems likely to turn upward this year, chiefly because of the improvement in prices. Hog prices have risen $5.00 per 100 pounds since December and are about 25 percent higher than at this time last year. The hog-corn price ratio at 14.2 in April was the highest since September 1950.

Moreover, present prices look favorable in relation to prices for cattle. In contrast with the 25 percent higher prices for hogs than a year ago, prices for cattle are 30 to 40 percent lower. Two years ago barrows and gilts sold at Chicago for $15.00 per 100 pounds less than Choice steers. Late in April they rose above Choice steer prices. These contrasting price trends demonstrate that competition between pork and beef is not so very close, and that there remains a very sizable independent demand for pork.

The increase in the hog-corn ratio, on the basis of past experience, would point to a rather substantial increase in farrowings this fall over last fall. However, vesicular exanthema crops up often and erratically enough to be of concern. Loans on corn will continue available at 90 percent of parity. Beef output will continue large, though it probably no longer disturbs hog producers as much as it did before hog prices rose. Hence a more realistic prospect is for a more moderate increase in the fall crop. Another large summer pig crop is likely this year, but it may not exceed last summer's crop. By mid-fall, farrowings may be considerably above a year earlier.

A moderately increased pork output could probably be marketed without reducing prices of hogs greatly--that is, without forcing them below an average relationship to the price of corn. This is the likely prospect in the absence of any material change in consumer demand. A big increase in the pork supply, on the other hand, would threaten the price seriously. A further increase in beef output is probable, and its effect on demand for pork is by no means to be entirely disregarded.

Table 1.- Commercial meat production, United States, by quarter-year 1950 to first quarter 1953.

Year	January-March	April-June	July-September	October-December	Year
	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.
			All meats		
1950	5,115	4,773	4,793	5,682	20,363
1951	5,181	4,699	4,692	5,647	20,219
1952	5,586	4,823	4,891	6,082	21,382
1953	5,765				
			Beef		
1950	2,231	2,221	2,415	2,381	9,248
1951	2,188	1,965	2,140	2,256	8,549
1952	2,217	2,144	2,422	2,558	9,341
1953	2,711				
			Veal		
1950	263	277	312	285	1,137
1951	220	216	271	265	972
1952	211	232	306	333	1,082
1953	268				
			Lamb and mutton		
1950	150	139	149	143	581
1951	131	109	127	141	508
1952	157	145	151	182	635
1953	187				
			Pork excluding lard		
1950	2,471	2,136	1,917	2,873	9,397
1951	2,642	2,409	2,154	2,985	10,190
1952	3,001	2,302	2,012	3,009	10,324
1953	2,599				

Table 2.- Array of hog-corn price ratios during March-July, and corresponding changes in number of sows farrowing fall pigs, 1924-53

Year	Hog-corn ratio, March-July 1/		Number of sows farrowing in the fall	Increase or decrease from previous year in sows farrowing	
	United States	North Central States		Number	Percent
			1,000 head	1,000 head	Percent
1926	18.0	20.3	4,330	391	9.9
1942	16.4	17.6	6,840	1,305	23.6
1938	15.5	17.3	4,517	672	17.5
1949	15.4	15.9	5,568	498	9.8
1936	14.9	16.5	3,957	100	2.6
1947	13.8	14.2	4,866	162	3.4
1939	13.6	15.5	5,352	835	18.5
1943	13.6	14.6	7,565	725	10.6
1950	13.5	13.9	5,923	355	6.4
1941	13.3	14.1	5,535	772	16.2
1953	3/13.5	-	-	-	-
1945	12.9	14.0	5,429	547	11.2
1951	12.8	13.0	6,032	109	1.8
1927	12.8	13.5	4,609	279	6.4
1930	11.8	13.2	4,073	-191	-4.5
1929	11.6	12.7	4,264	-165	-3.7
1931	11.4	13.0	4,797	724	17.8
1932	11.2	12.6	5,179	382	8.0
1944	11.1	12.3	4,882	-2,683	-35.5
1952 2/	10.8	11.2	5,318	-714	-11.8
1933	10.8	12.9	5,207	28	0.5
1925	10.8	11.8	3,939	-405	-9.3
1946	10.8	11.4	4,704	-725	-13.4
1948	10.4	10.4	5,070	204	4.2
1935	10.1	10.8	3,857	921	31.4
1928	8.8	9.4	4,429	-180	-3.9
1940	8.5	9.2	4,763	-589	-11.0
1937	8.5	8.6	3,845	-112	-2.8
1924	8.0	8.9	4,344	-1,448	-25.0
1934	6.9	8.0	2,936	-2,271	-43.6

1/ March-July is regarded as the breeding season for the fall pig crop.
2/ Preliminary data.
3/ Estimated. April 1953 was 14.2 for the United States.

Returns from Lamb Feeding Below Average

Average returns from lamb feeding last winter were considerably better than in the 1951-52 feeding season but still below the average of the past 5 years. Feeder lamb prices declined seasonally last fall to a level $10.00 to $12.00 per 100 pounds below a year earlier. Slaughter lamb prices, after hitting a low in December, improved somewhat afterward. Feed costs were generally below those in the 1951-52 season with higher hay prices partially offsetting cheaper corn. The result was a small net return over costs of feeding, as calculated for a standard feeding program (table 3).

Returns to individual feeders varied from the averages carried in table 3. The data shown apply to a representative feeding program for feeders who bought lambs last fall and sold them during the winter. Only the principal cost and receipt items are shown.

USDA Purchases Beef; Offers to Buy More

USDA purchases of beef under two continuing programs totaled 3,968,000 pounds by April 29, which is equivalent to 4,703,000 pounds, carcass weight equivalent. These purchases were made for export to Greece by the Mutual Security Agency, and, under Section 32 funds and authorization, for diverting surplus beef from normal channels of trade. Offers are being continued to buy additional quantities of beef under both of these programs.

Offers to buy Commercial and Utility beef carcasses for export to Greece were first made on March 12 and more recently offers for canned beef were added. Since then purchases totaling 3,170,000 pounds have been made at an average cost of about 28 cents per pound for carcass beef and 39 cents for canned beef. Most of the carcass beef graded Utility.

Purchases with Section 32 funds totaled 798,000 pounds by late April at an average cost of about 40 cents per pound and included frozen ground beef, frozen boneless chucks and frozen diced beef grading Good or better. This meat will be distributed to the non-profit school lunch program and other eligible outlets to encourage additional consumption.

USDA Liberalizes VE Indemnities

The Department of Agriculture will now pay up to 50 percent indemnity--that is, 50 percent of the difference between appraised and salvage value--on hogs found to be infected with vesicular exanthema and moved in interstate commerce. This applies, however, only provided the swine have moved in accord with existing laws and regulations for the control and eradication of this disease.

Under the state of emergency originally declared by the Secretary of Agriculture August 1, 1952 indemnities were payable only in States which matched Federal funds for such payments. The new Federal payment on movement of hogs will be made without requiring a like payment by a State but does not rule out the possibility of State payments.

Table 3.- Average prices and values of important items affecting returns from lamb feeding, 1947-48 to 1952-53

Item	1947-1948	1948-1949	1949-1950	1950-1951	1951-1952	1952-1953
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Price per 100 pounds of Choice and Prime slaughter lambs, Chicago, December-March 1/	23.83	25.72	24.33	36.35	28.82	22.49
Price per 100 pounds of Good and Choice feeder lambs, Omaha, September-December	21.29	22.90	23.16	29.35	31.61	21.01
Price per bushel received by farmers for corn, North Central States October-March	2.222	1.190	1.093	1.473	1.620	1.417
Price per ton received by farmers for alfalfa hay, baled. North Central States, October-March..	2/25.00	25.25	21.68	21.98	21.48	24.58
	Total value					
Market value at Chicago of Choice and Prime 85 pound slaughter lambs 1/	20.26	21.86	20.68	30.90	24.50	19.12
Market cost at Omaha of 60 pound feeder lambs	12.77	13.74	13.90	17.61	18.97	12.61
Cost of 2½ bushels of corn	5.56	2.98	2.73	3.68	4.05	3.54
Cost of 150 pounds of alfalfa hay	1.88	1.89	1.63	1.65	1.61	1.84
Total of cost items shown 3/	20.21	18.61	18.26	22.94	24.63	17.99
Margin of market value per lamb over total of cost items shown 3/	.05	3.25	2.42	7.96	-.13	1.13

1/ Formerly Good and Choice. New grades were effective April 30, 1951.
2/ Estimated from U. S. average price paid for baled alfalfa hay.
3/ Does not include purchasing or marketing expenses, labor cost, death losses, overhead costs or costs of other feed ingredients, or credits for manure. The prices shown are averages for the lamb feeding season for the North Central region, and do not necessarily coincide with the experience of individual feeders.

Vesicular exanthema (VE) is a disease of hogs. It does not affect other farm animals or humans. Almost without exception each outbreak of VE can be traced to hogs fed on raw garbage. Because of this connection, 23 States have enacted laws or regulations requiring the cooking of garbage and 15 other States are currently considering such measures in an effort to eradicate VE and other animal diseases. Additional control measures proposed by the Department of Agriculture, but not yet put into force, include new restrictions on movement of garbage-fed hogs across State lines. Also proposed is that Federal indemnities be refused after June 1 in any outbreak associated with the feeding of raw garbage or in case of noncompliance with quarantine or other sanitation requirements.

VE, which has existed in California for 20 years or so, first showed up outside that State only 10 months ago. Since that time it has appeared in 40 States although never in that many at the same time. Many States have been able to eradicate the infection but some have become reinfected and the disease has continued to spread into other States. At mid-April parts of 16 States were under Federal quarantine. Up to that time approximately 138 thousand infected swine had been slaughtered and processed through the Federal-State cooperative program and an additional 58 thousand infected hogs awaited liquidation. Since the disease does not affect humans in any way the special slaughter and processing are to prevent the spread of the disease to other swine either directly or indirectly through the medium of garbage.

World Cattle and Sheep Numbers Increase; Hogs Decline

World cattle and sheep numbers continued to increase during the past year but hog numbers declined moderately, according to recent estimates of the Foreign Agricultural Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. The relatively more favorable returns from beef cattle and sheep in recent years encouraged growers to expand their herds and flocks to record levels. Relatively plentiful supplies of other meats and less attractive hog prices during 1952 led to a small decline in hog numbers from the record world level of January 1, 1952.

The number of cattle in the world at the beginning of 1953 is estimated at 845 million head, up 2 percent over a year earlier and 14 percent above the 1936-40 average. The number has increased in each of the past 7 years and seems likely to increase again in 1953. Estimates by countries show that the expansion during 1952 was nearly world wide although North and South America made relatively greater gains than other major producing countries. The most pronounced increases from pre-war levels are 47 percent in Africa, 33 percent in North America and 32 percent in South America.

The moderate increase during 1952 lifted the world sheep total to approximately 817 million head at the beginning of this year. In the major producing countries small declines in Argentina and the United States were more than offset by slight gains elsewhere. Favorable wool prices will probably encourage additional increases during 1953 but the rise may be limited by competition with cattle for available pastures and feed supplies. Compared with the years just before the war, sheep numbers are up most in South American countries.

Table 4.- Canned meat: Supply and distribution, 1937-52

(Net product weight)

	Federally inspected production 1/	Imports 2/	Beginning stocks	Total supply	Commercial exports and shipments 3/	Ending stocks	USDA purchases 4/	Military purchases 5/	Apparent civilian distribution 6/	
									Total	Per capita
	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Pounds
1937	308.1	88.1		396.2	21.9		0		374.3	2.9
1938	303.5	78.6		382.1	22.8		0		359.3	2.7
1939	406.8	85.9		492.7	23.9		0		468.8	3.5
1940	530.2	61.3		591.5	20.2		0		571.3	4.3
1941	883.9	104.3		988.2	26.7		188.4	75.5	697.6	5.2
1942	1,926.6	91.6		2,018.2	19.8		875.6	920.5	202.3	1.5
1943	2,051.2	105.5		2,156.7	9.9		1,024.8	680.5	441.5	3.4
1944	1,930.7	87.7		2,018.4	13.2		448.6	1,121.0	435.6	3.3
1945	1,926.1	54.8	17.7	1,998.6	13.5	18.1	359.6	970.9	636.5	4.9
1946	1,342.8	3.3	18.1	1,364.2	55.3	22.6	157.1	19.2	1,110.0	7.9
1947	1,099.4	28.7	22.6	1,150.7	64.3	27.3	---	31.1	1,028.0	7.1
1948	1,096.0	129.1	27.3	1,252.4	35.4	28.0	---	52.8	1,136.2	7.7
1949	1,039.7	72.3	28.0	1,140.0	25.7	27.2	---	23.0	1,064.1	7.1
1950	1,231.3	124.6	27.2	1,383.1	20.0	27.3	---	50.3	1,285.5	8.4
1951	1,441.2	153.9	27.3	1,622.4	20.6	34.6	---	246.2	1,321.0	8.6
1952	1,351.2	120.0	34.6	1,505.8	18.6	37.1	---	57.8	1,392.3	9.0

1/ Beef, pork, sausage, all other, excluding soup. Data from Bureau of Animal Industry. 2/ Canned beef only. Data from Department of Commerce. 3/ Includes shipments to Territories. Excludes shipments under lend-lease and UNRRA (1941-46) and the Civilian Supply Programs of the U. S. Department of the Army in foreign countries (1948-51). Data from Dept. of Commerce. 4/ Canned meats and meat food products officially graded for CCC. Does not include transfers of meat from the military to CCC or small quantities turned back to civilians or transferred to the military. Purchases from U. S. supplies or from imports. 5/ From Statistical Yearbook of the Quartermaster Corps and other military records. Not a complete listing of all canned meats purchased during the war years, but cover practically all of the canned meats purchased during the war for mass troop feeding. Includes imported canned meat and army rations and some meat and rations later transferred to CCC and UNRRA. 6/ Calculated from Federally inspected supplies and distribution as shown. Federally inspected production is the largest part of total U. S. production of canned meats.

Bureau of Agricultural Economics

The number of hogs in the world is currently estimated by the Foreign Agricultural Service at 301 million head, down 2 percent from last year's record. This was the first decline since 1946 but the number is still 4 percent above 1936-40. Although there were some increases last year in Europe, Asia and South America the rate of increase there has slowed and was not large enough to offset decreases in other major countries, particularly the United States and Canada.

Canned Meat Production Down in 1952

Production of canned meat decreased in 1952 from 1951. Because military takings were down, the supply available to civilians actually increased (table 4).

FOREIGN TRADE IN LIVESTOCK AND MEAT

Tables 7 and 8 summarize data on foreign trade in cattle and meat for recent years.

Canada and Mexico have in effect alternated as sources of cattle imports. From December 27, 1946 to September 1, 1952 imports from Mexico were cut off because of foot-and-mouth disease. During this period, Canada sent in considerable numbers until in February 1952 it also was banned from the United States market due to an outbreak of the same disease there. Now trade is permitted with both Mexico and Canada. Imports from each country will probably be smaller than formerly. Prices of cattle in the United States have declined, making the United States market less attractive. Also, movement out of Canada will be held down because herds there are being rebuilt and the exportable surplus is not large. Movement of cattle into the United States from Mexico is limited by Mexican Government quotas.

Less beef but more pork was received from foreign sources in 1952 than the previous year (table 8). There was a net reduction in beef imports due to closing the Canadian border. The 60 million pounds from New Zealand were less than had been received from Canada the previous year. Less came in from Argentina, but slightly more from Mexico.

Imports of pork were up a little but were still only half the size of exports and shipments, which also increased.

RANK OF STATES IN LIVESTOCK NUMBERS AND PRODUCTION

Tables 9, 10 and 11 repeat a tabulation provided in previous years ranking the States according to livestock numbers and production. Listed are numbers for 5 categories of livestock on farms January 1; for pig crops; and for liveweight of production on farms. (For further explanation, see this Situation for May 1951 and March-April 1952.)

Table 5.- Production, price and income from wool, United States, 1945-52

Year	Number sheep shorn 1/	Weight per fleece	Production of shorn wool	Price per pound 2/	Cash receipts	Production of pulled wool
	Thousands	Pounds	1,000 lb.	Cents	1,000 dol.	1,000 lb.
1945	38,763	7.95	307,976	41.9	128,970	70,500
1946	34,647	8.11	280,908	42.3	118,805	61,300
1947	30,953	8.12	251,425	42.0	105,654	56,600
1948	28,649	8.09	231,770	49.2	114,055	46,600
1949	26,382	8.07	212,899	49.4	105,223	35,600
1950	26,387	8.16	215,422	62.1	133,729	32,400
1951	27,357	8.24	225,545	97.0	218,832	25,900
1952	28,172	8.25	232,373	3/53.3	123,873	33,600

1/ Includes sheep shorn at commercial feeding yards.

2/ Average price for the marketing season April through March received by farmers.

3/ Preliminary. Includes an allowance for wool under loan.

Table 6.- Mohair: Production and value for 7 leading States, 1945-52 1/

Year	Number goats clipped 2/	Average clip per goat	Production of mohair	Price per pound	Value
	Thousands	Pounds	1,000 lbs.	Cents	1,000 dol.
1945	4,291	5.1	22,008	55.3	12,180
1946	3,939	4.9	19,282	61.1	11,783
1947	3,672	5.0	18,225	53.6	9,772
1948	3,164	5.1	15,972	45.4	7,251
1949	2,558	5.1	12,959	46.3	6,001
1950	2,530	5.2	13,245	76.0	10,062
1951	2,475	5.2	12,888	118.0	15,183
1952	2,268	5.3	12,116	96.2	11,660

1/ Seven leading States are Missouri, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Oregon and California.

2/ In States where goats are clipped twice a year the number clipped is the sum of goats and kids clipped in the spring and kids clipped in the fall.

Table 7.- Imports of cattle from Canada and Mexico, 1939 to date

Year	Dutiable Cattle								
	700 pounds and over			Under 700 pounds			Total dutiable cattle	Breeding cattle (free)	Total cattle
	Cows for dairy purposes	Other	Total	Under 200 pounds	200 to 699 pounds	Total			
	Head	Head	Head	Head	Head	Head	Head	Head	Head
	From Canada								
1939	8,570	172,753	181,323	81,832	11,229	93,061	274,384	9,599	283,983
1940	9,595	125,004	134,599	74,681	10,076	84,757	219,356	12,904	232,260
1941	13,387	150,216	163,603	62,419	10,192	72,611	236,214	16,139	252,353
1942 1/	19,509	115,475	134,984	53,015	9,033	62,048	197,032	16,107	213,139
1943	34,764	211	34,975	5,986	1,317	7,303	42,278	22,369	64,647
1944	33,624	164	33,788	5,551	1,038	6,589	40,377	16,748	57,125
1945	43,919	77	43,996	8,427	1,535	9,962	53,958	22,163	76,121
1946	64,737	182	64,919	9,345	3,113	12,458	77,377	41,919	119,296
1947	43,912	95	44,007	7,642	1,372	9,014	53,021	29,869	82,890
1948 2/	84,275	214,645	298,920	23,571	96,335	119,906	418,826	42,853	461,679
1949	49,061	194,916	243,977	41,535	126,614	168,149	412,126	21,332	433,458
1950	46,591	173,000	219,591	38,985	179,709	218,694	438,285	22,610	460,895
1951	35,600	117,455	153,055	15,609	51,103	66,712	219,767	19,120	238,887
1952 3/	4,636	4,244	8,880	714	968	1,682	10,562	2,222	12,784
	From Mexico								
1939	0	55,232	55,232	33,259	390,074	423,333	478,565	267	478,832
1940	0	44,715	44,715	29,921	336,207	366,128	410,843	602	411,445
1941	0	54,253	54,253	39,776	402,120	441,896	496,149	235	496,384
1942	57	64,575	64,632	13,503	377,407	390,910	455,542	81	455,623
1943	170	77,309	77,479	8,283	501,592	509,875	587,354	582	587,936
1944	0	25,531	25,531	310	275,259	275,569	301,100	26	301,126
1945	62	41,917	41,979	1,315	392,132	393,447	435,426	9	435,435
1946 4/	1,348	25,714	27,062	708	410,552	411,260	438,322	152	438,474
1947 5/	0	792	792	0	638	638	1,430	-	1,430
1948	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1949	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1950	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1951	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1952 6/	2,381	43,617	45,998	96	81,185	81,281	127,279	-	127,279

1/ Exports from Canada restricted by that country beginning June 15, 1942.

2/ Canadian restrictions lifted August 16, 1948.

3/ Imports prohibited beginning February 15, 1952, due to outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Canada.

4/ Imports prohibited beginning December 27, 1946 due to outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Mexico.

5/ Cattle imports shown in 1947 actually entered the United States in December 1946 after the customs office closed their books.

6/ Imports resumed September 1, 1952.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Compiled from Foreign Commerce and Navigation of the United States and official records of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 8.- United States imports and exports of meats by principal countries of origin or destination, 1951 and 1952

Product and calendar year	Exports and shipments to territories							
	Exports, product weight, by country of destination							Total exports and shipments, carcass weight equivalent 1/2/
	Canada	The Netherlands	United Kingdom	Germany	Cuba	All other	Total	
	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.
Beef & veal								
1951	8.3	--	--	--	0.1	3.2	11.6	20
1952	9.3	--	--	--	1.2	4.2	14.7	6/25
Lamb & mutton								
1951	--	--	--	--	--	0.2	0.2	1
1952	0.1	--	--	--	--	0.3	0.4	6/ 1
Pork								
1951	21.9	14.8	0.1	5.7	26.9	12.8	82.2	136
1952	4.5	13.1	--	28.3	34.9	16.0	96.8	6/148
Sausage								
1951	0.4	--	--	--	0.2	5.1	5.7	--
1952	0.1	--	--	--	0.1	4.5	5/4.5	--
Total meat 3/								
1951	31.1	14.8	0.1	5.7	27.3	23.7	102.7	157
1952	14.6	13.1	--	28.3	36.4	25.6	118.0	6/174

Product and calendar year	Imports										
	Product weight, by country of origin										Total imports, carcass weight equivalent 2/
	Canada	The Nether-lands	Denmark	Poland	Argentina	Uruguay	Mexico	New Zealand	All other	Total	
	Mil.lbs.	Mil.lbs.	Mil.lbs.	Mil.lbs.	Mil.lbs.	Mil.lbs.	Mil.lbs.	Mil.lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil.lbs.	Mil.lbs.
Beef & veal 4/											
1951	82.1	--	0.3	--	141.7	18.7	46.4	--	18.8	308.0	468
1952	1.4	--	--	--	107.4	16.9	56.5	50.6	19.8	252.6	382
Lamb & mutton											
1951	2.7	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.3	3.7	6.7	7
1952	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6.2	6.2	6
Pork											
1951	22.4	16.2	4.2	5.1	--	--	--	--	1.1	49.0	51
1952	18.5	20.3	8.9	9.4	--	--	--	--	4.9	62.0	72
Total meat											
1951	107.2	16.2	4.5	5.1	141.7	18.7	46.4	0.3	23.6	363.7	526
1952	19.9	20.3	8.9	9.4	107.4	16.9	56.5	50.6	30.9	320.8	460

1/ Includes shipments to Puerto Rico & Virgin Islands only. No data available on shipments to other territories. 2/ 1952 data are computed according to slightly revised conversion factors. 3/ Includes cured and other canned meats not elsewhere classified. 4/ Regularly listed imports. In addition, some boneless beef, not separately reported, was imported. 5/ Excludes sausage ingredients, no longer reported. 6/ Shipments estimated. Data on product weight compiled from *Foreign Commerce and Navigation of the United States*.

Table 9.- Rank of States in number of cattle and calves on farms January 1, 1953

Rank	All cattle and calves		Beef cattle and calves (Cattle "not for milk")			
			Total		Beef cows 2 years and over	
	State	Number	State	Number	State	Number
		Thousands		Thousands		Thousands
1	Texas	8,853	Texas	7,201	Texas	3,869
2	Iowa	6,113	Iowa	4,393	Nebraska	1,463
3	Nebraska	4,965	Nebraska	4,252	Kansas	1,262
4	Kansas	4,428	Kansas	3,560	Oklahoma	1,161
5	Wisconsin	4,152	Missouri	2,494	S. Dakota	1,074
6	Missouri	3,950	S. Dakota	2,479	Montana	980
7	Illinois	3,869	Illinois	2,343	Missouri	902
8	Minnesota	3,750	Oklahoma	2,329	Iowa	842
9	California	3,283	Montana	2,003	California	786
10	Oklahoma	3,218	California	1,870	Colorado	749
11	S. Dakota	3,052	Colorado	1,870	Florida	731
12	Ohio	2,416	Minnesota	1,411	Louisiana	713
13	New York	2,311	Florida	1,376	New Mexico	644
14	Montana	2,172	Louisiana	1,241	Illinois	552
15	Colorado	2,161	New Mexico	1,167	Wyoming	539
16	Michigan	2,003	Wyoming	1,118	Mississippi	500
17	Indiana	1,997	N. Dakota	1,111	Alabama	468
18	Pennsylvania	1,897	Indiana	1,021	Arizona	463
19	Mississippi	1,888	Oregon	995	N. Dakota	463
20	Kentucky	1,843	Mississippi	988	Oregon	426
21	Tennessee	1,774	Alabama	936	Arkansas	365
22	Louisiana	1,771	Kentucky	914	Kentucky	318
23	N. Dakota	1,742	Arizona	897	Georgia	313
24	Alabama	1,708	Idaho	850	Nevada	312
25	Florida	1,662	Ohio	838	Idaho	308
26	Arkansas	1,505	Tennessee	785	Virginia	286
27	Virginia	1,383	Arkansas	783	Tennessee	280
28	Oregon	1,374	Georgia	741	Indiana	266
29	Georgia	1,358	Virginia	659	Minnesota	262
30	New Mexico	1,250	Washington	626	Utah	255
31	Idaho	1,227	Nevada	588	Washington	241
32	Wyoming	1,201	Utah	557	Ohio	152
33	Washington	1,052	Michigan	464	W. Virginia	121
34	Arizona	974	Wisconsin	412	N. Carolina	102
35	N. Carolina	892	Pennsylvania	338	S. Carolina	92
36	Utah	733	W. Virginia	296	Michigan	70
37	Nevada	624	N. Carolina	294	Pennsylvania	63
38	W. Virginia	617	S. Carolina	214	Wisconsin	37
39	Maryland	529	New York	147	Maryland	30
40	S. Carolina	473	Maryland	142	New York	25
41	Vermont	466	Maine	30	Maine	8
42	Maine	239	Vermont	25	Delaware	3
43	New Jersey	225	New Jersey	15	Vermont	3
44	Massachusetts	189	Delaware	12	New Hampshire	2
45	Connecticut	184	Massachusetts	12	Massachusetts	2
46	New Hampshire	120	Connecticut	10	New Jersey	2
47	Delaware	75	New Hampshire	9	Connecticut	1
48	Rhode Island	28	Rhode Island	1	Rhode Island	1
United States total		93,696		56,817		22,506

Table 10.- Rank of States in number of milk cows and sheep on farms January 1, 1953 and pigs saved 1952

Rank	Milk cows 2 years and over		All sheep and lambs		Number pigs saved 1/	
	State	Number	State	Number	State	Number
		Thousands		Thousands		Thousands
1	Wisconsin	2,504	Texas	5,511	Iowa	19,574
2	Minnesota	1,454	Wyoming	2,261	Illinois	10,302
3	New York	1,439	California	2,003	Indiana	7,932
4	Iowa	1,145	Colorado	1,838	Minnesota	6,163
					Missouri ...	5,971
5	Texas	1,085	Montana	1,780	Ohio	5,324
6	Ohio	1,019	Utah	1,528	Nebraska	4,031
	Missouri ...	1,014				
7	Pennsylvania ...	989	New Mexico	1,419	Wisconsin	3,468
8	Michigan	963	Iowa	1,399	Georgia	2,670
9	Illionis	931	Ohio	1,328	S. Dakota	2,414
10	California	857	Idaho	1,113	N. Carolina ...	1,823
11	Tennessee	701	S. Dakota	1,084	Alabama	1,757
12	Kentucky	681	Minnesota	971	Tennessee	1,727
13	Indiana	671	Missouri	943	Kansas	1,714
14	Mississippi	594	Nebraska	810	Kentucky	1,688
15			Illinois	789	Texas	1,666
16	Kansas	580	Oregon	674	Michigan	1,459
17	Oklahoma	558	Kentucky	668	Virginia	1,193
18	Virginia	484	Indiana	530	Pennsylvania ..	1,111
19	Arkansas	462	Kansas	523	Oklahoma	987
20	Nebraska	450	N. Dakota	513	S. Carolina ...	952
21	Alabama	444	Nevada	505	Mississippi ...	910
22	N. Dakota	422	Michigan	452		
23	N. Carolina	399	Arizona	430	Florida	852
24	Georgia	387	Washington	338	Arkansas	827
25	S. Dakota	350	W. Virginia.....	327	Louisiana	757
26	Louisiana	349	Virginia	318	N. Dakota	718
27	Vermont	293	Tennessee	274	California	647
28	Washington	275	Wisconsin	273	Maryland	412
29	Maryland	255	Pennsylvania ...	254	Colorado	366
30	Oregon	233	New York	162	New York	342
31	W. Virginia	226	Oklahoma	131	Montana	268
32	Idaho	222	Louisiana	122	W. Virginia ...	256
33	Colorado	182	Mississippi	83	Idaho	252
34	S. Carolina	168	N. Carolina	48	Oregon	237
35	Florida	158	Maryland	45	Washington	200
36	New Jersey	155	Arkansas	42	New Jersey	155
37	Massachusetts ..	128	Maine	23	Massachusetts .	132
38	Maine	122	Alabama	21	Utah	94
39	Connecticut	120	New Jersey	14	Wyoming	83
40	Utah	111	Georgia	13	New Mexico	73
41	Montana.........	110	Massachusetts ..	11	Delaware	66
42	New Hampshire ..	70	Vermont	10	Maine	51
43	New Mexico	55	Connecticut	9	Connecticut ...	42
44	Arizona	52	New Hampshire ..	9	Arizona	33
45	Wyoming	50	S. Carolina	4	Nevada	29
46	Delaware	42	Delaware	3	Vermont	26
47	Rhode Island ...	20	Florida	3	New Hampshire .	24
48	Nevada	17	Rhode Island ...	2	Rhode Island ..	7
United States total ..		23,996		31,611		91,785

1/ Total of pigs saved from spring and fall pig crops of 1952.

Table 11.- Rank of States in liveweight of farm production of meat animals, 1952 1/

	Cattle and calves		Sheep and lambs		Hogs	
	State	Production	State	Production	State	Production
		Mil. lbs.		Mil. lbs.		Mil. lbs.
1	Texas	2,285	Texas	116	Iowa	4,501
2	Iowa	1,821	California	100	Illinois	2,394
3	Nebraska	1,493	Colorado	100	Indiana	1,725
4	Kansas	1,430	Wyoming	87	Minnesota	1,411
5	Illinois Missouri	1,139 1,043	Montana	84	Missouri	1,314
6	Minnesota	1,008	Idaho	78	Ohio	1,108
7	California	965	Iowa	71	Nebraska	962
8	Oklahoma	953	Utah	65	Wisconsin	757
9	S. Dakota	888	Minnesota	58	S. Dakota	575
10	Wisconsin	867	Missouri	54	Kansas	402
11	Colorada	680	Ohio	52		
12	Montana	624	S. Dakota	49	Georgia	399
13	Ohio	577	Kentucky	46	Texas	383
14	Indiana	546	New Mexico	46	Tennessee	380
15	Michigan	452	Nebraska	45	Kentucky	361
16	N. Dakota	451	Illinois	44	N. Carolina	345
17	New York	429	Oregon	39	Alabama	317
18	Kentucky	425	Kansas	37	Michigan	304
19	Tennessee	371	Indiana	28	Virginia	244
20	Wyoming	361	N. Dakota	25	Pennsylvania	221
21	Pennsylvania	342	Michigan	21	Oklahoma	218
22	Oregon	330	Nevada	20	Mississippi	172
23	Arkansas	323	Washington	20	S. Carolina	168
24	Idaho	309	Virginia	19	Arkansas	160
25	New Mexico	309	W. Virginia	19	N. Dakota	160
26	Mississippi	308	Tennessee	16	California	124
27			Arizona	15	Florida	119
28	Alabama	281	Wisconsin	15	Louisiana	114
29	Louisiana	276	Oklahoma	8	Colorado Maryland	88 77
30	Virginia	275	Pennsylvania	8	New York	71
31	Washington	259	New York	6	Montana	63
32	Arizona	233	Maryland	2	W. Virginia	61
33	Florida	229	N. Carolina	2	Idaho	53
34	Georgia	217	Mississippi	2	Oregon	53
35	Utah	181	Louisiana	2	Washington	45
36	Nevada	139	Maine	1	New Jersey	29
37	W. Virginia	126	Arkansas	1	Massachusetts	26
38	N. Carolina	123	Alabama	1	Utah	19
39	Maryland	96	New Jersey	1	Wyoming	18
40	Vermont	75	Massachusetts	1	New Mexico	17
41	S. Carolina	68	Connecticut	2/	Delaware	12
42	Maine	46	Vermont	2/	Maine	10
43	New Jersey	43	New Hampshire	2/	Connecticut	8
44	Connecticut	32	Georgia	2/	Arizona	7
45	Massachusetts	27	Delaware	2/	Nevada	6
46	New Hampshire	22	Rhode Island	2/	Vermont	6
47	Delaware	14	S. Carolina	2/	New Hampshire	5
48	Rhode Island	4	Florida	2/	Rhode Island	1
United States total		23,491		1,408		20,013

1/ Liveweight produced during year by livestock on farms. Preliminary data.
2/ Less than 500,000 lbs.

THE PRESENT CYCLE IN CATTLE--A REAPPRAISAL

by Harold F. Breimyer

Now that cattle slaughter is moving rapidly upward following a cyclical expansion in production, the crucial question is as to how much farther it will go.

In the October 1951 and March-April 1952 issues of this Situation, projections of cattle numbers and beef supply were made for several years ahead, based on the history of previous cycles. Those projections will here be reviewed and reappraised.

In the projections published last year, a cattle inventory of 100 millions was indicated for 1955. Annual cattle and calf slaughter for 1955 was set at 38.7 million head, and beef and veal consumption at 81 pounds per person.

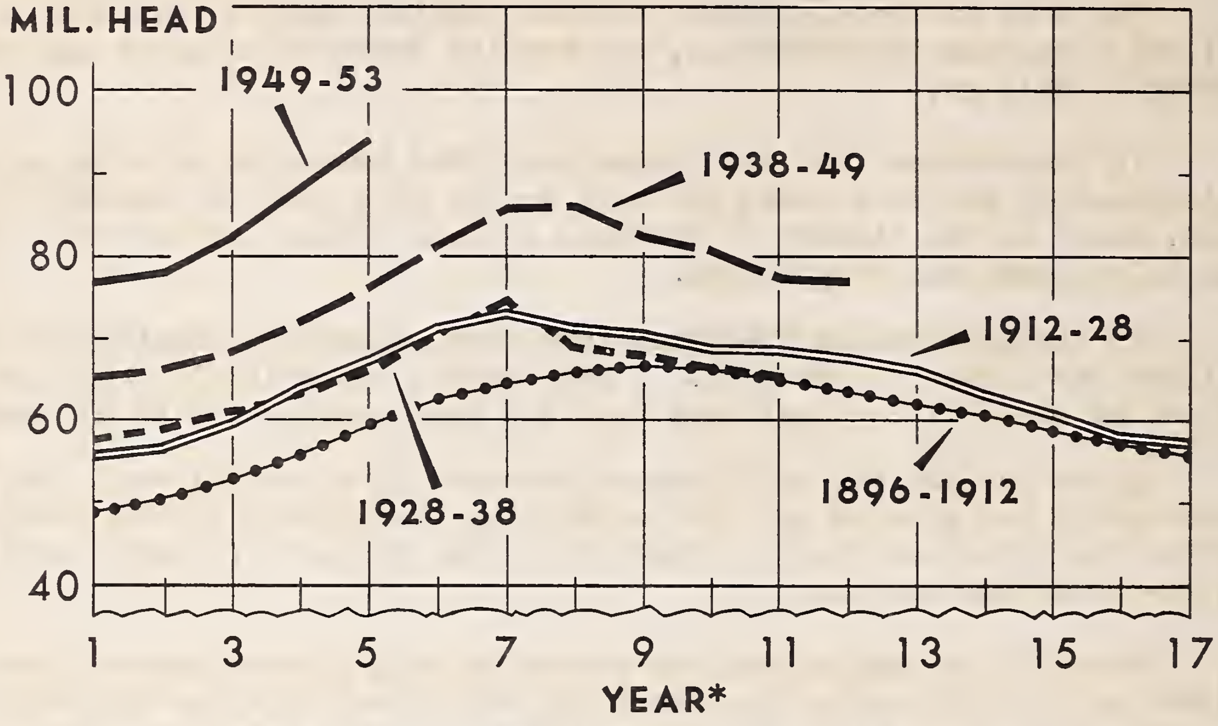
Those projections still appear accurate in a general way. But the cattle cycle has speeded up. It is reaching its crest a little faster and earlier than appeared likely a year ago. The original projected data now require a new examination.

To aid in a reappraisal the charts on page 22 were drawn. They present on a single scale the record for each previous cycle of the number of cattle and calves on farms (upper chart) and the number slaughtered each year (lower chart). For both charts the low point in inventories is taken as the first year of each cycle. The first up- and down-swing in numbers that is charted began in 1896 and ended in 1912; the next was in 1912-28, followed by 1928-38 and 1938-49; and then came the expansion that began in 1949. The chart reveals the marked similarity in cycles in inventory numbers, particularly in the expansion phase. Previous periods of expansion have varied from 6 to 8 years in length. Numbers have declined over periods lasting from 4 to 10 years.

Cyclical trends in slaughter have been less uniform than those in numbers. Yet a general pattern recurs. Slaughter ordinarily dips to a low at about the second or third year of the cycle, when numbers on farms begin to make big strides upward. A little later, when the larger cow herd has begun to produce more calves, slaughter itself starts to rise. Slaughter reaches its high point a little after the peak in numbers on farms has passed, though the exact position varies from cycle to cycle.

In the present cycle, numbers on farms have been climbing since 1949. The rate of slaughter is now on the upgrade, and numbers on farms are increasing at a much slower pace than heretofore. In fact, it would be possible for slaughter to be large enough in 1953 to halt completely the expansion in inventory numbers. The most likely prospect nevertheless is for numbers to climb a little more, to around 96 or 97 million head next January 1 and to a peak of 98 or 99 million the following January (table 13). This projection corresponds to the behavior of previous cycles, as may be seen from the upper chart. Also, it is consistent with the sharply increased slaughter of steers and heifers this year but only moderately increased slaughter of cows. Not until cow slaughter rises substantially will total cattle numbers turn down.

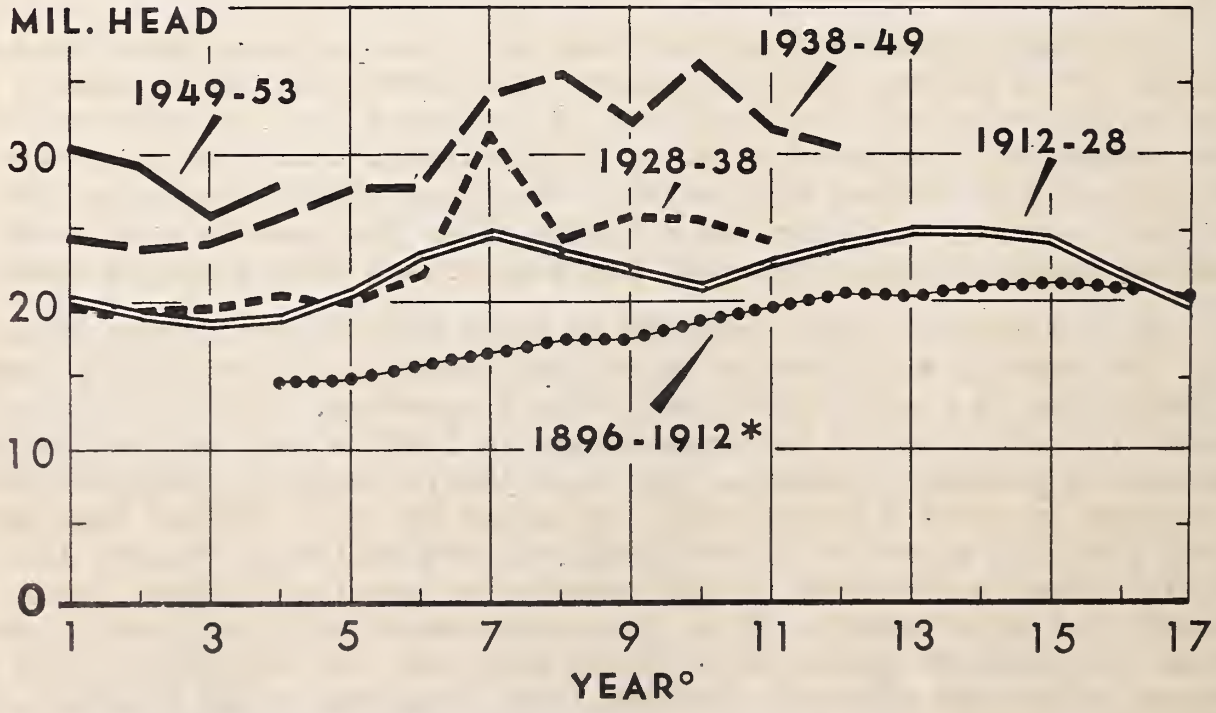
CATTLE ON FARMS, BY CYCLES



*YEAR OF CYCLE, BEGINNING FROM LOW IN NUMBERS ON FARMS.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 49084-XX BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

CATTLE SLAUGHTER, BY CYCLES



TOTAL SLAUGHTER OF CATTLE AND CALVES.

*DATA FOR 1896-98 NOT AVAILABLE. °YEAR OF CYCLE, BEGINNING FROM LOW IN NUMBERS ON FARMS.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 49085-XX BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Table 12.- Number of cattle on farms, number slaughtered, and beef supply, 1947-52 and forecast for 1953

Year	Number cattle and calves on farms January 1	Number slaughtered			Av. dressed weight per head slaughtered		Beef and veal produced		Beef and veal consumed per person		
		Cattle	Calves	Cattle and calves	Cattle	Calves	Beef	Veal	Beef	Veal	Beef and veal
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Lb.	Lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
1947	80,554	22,404	13,726	36,130	466	117	10,432	1,605	68.6	10.7	79.3
1948	77,171	19,177	12,378	31,555	473	115	9,075	1,423	62.2	9.4	71.6
1949	76,830	18,765	11,398	30,163	503	117	9,439	1,334	63.0	8.8	71.8
1950	77,963	18,624	10,504	29,128	512	117	9,538	1,230	62.5	7.9	70.4
1951	82,025	17,100	8,913	26,013	517	117	8,843	1,061	55.2	6.6	61.8
1952	87,844	18,566	9,390	27,956	2/519	2/125	9,628	1,170	61.0	7.1	68.1
1953 1/	93,696	22,000	11,000	33,000	508	126	11,200	1,380	70	8	78

1/ Number on farms is preliminary estimate; all other values are forecast.
2/ Estimate. Actual weight not yet reported.

Table 13.- Projections based on "normal" cycle for number of cattle on farms, number slaughtered and beef supply, 1954-58 1/

Year	Number cattle and calves on farms January 1	Number slaughtered			Av. dressed weight per head slaughtered		Beef and veal produced		Beef and veal consumed per person		
		Cattle	Calves	Cattle and calves	Cattle	Calves	Beef	Veal	Beef	Veal	Beef and veal
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Lb.	Lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
1954	97,000	23,200	12,000	35,100	495	127	11,500	1,525	71	9	80
1955	99,000	24,250	13,450	37,700	485	128	11,800	1,725	72	10	82
1956	99,000	25,250	14,850	40,100	480	126	12,100	1,875	73	11	84
1957	97,000	25,200	15,100	40,300	475	124	12,000	1,875	71	11	82
1958	94,500	24,550	14,650	39,200	480	122	11,800	1,800	70	10	80

1/ Projections based entirely on charts of past cycles shown on page 22. That is, they show the approximate level of slaughter and beef supply to be expected if numbers on farms continue upward in 1953 and 1954, completing a typical 6-year cyclical upswing, and then decline later. They are based on a forecast of 33 million head of cattle and calves slaughtered in 1953, 18 percent more than in 1952. As slaughter to date has been more than 20 percent above 1952, a year-total of more than 33 million is a real possibility.

Selected Price Statistics for Meat Animals 1/

Item	Unit	Jan.-March Av.		1952	1953		
		1952	1953	March	Feb.	March	April
Cattle and calves							
Beef steers, slaughter 2/	Dollars per						
Chicago, Prime	100 pounds	37.14	28.76	37.58	27.42	24.75	
Choice	do.	34.65	25.00	34.69	24.49	22.68	
Good	do.	31.84	22.28	31.34	22.03	20.85	
Commercial	do.	28.96	19.94	28.17	19.67	19.03	
Utility	do.	26.19	17.50	25.38	17.20	17.18	
All grades	do.	33.81	23.81	33.41	23.41	21.98	
Omaha, all grades	do.	32.38	21.77	31.90	21.64	20.67	
Sioux City, all grades	do.	32.09	21.72	31.49	21.55	20.48	
Cows, Chicago 2/							
Commercial	do.	24.09	15.64	24.29	15.36	15.64	
Utility	do.	21.89	14.58	22.07	14.52	14.50	
Canner and Cutter	do.	19.09	13.09	19.26	13.23	12.96	
Vealers, Choice and Prime, Chicago	do.	37.60	30.87	37.80	32.58	28.90	
Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City	do.	31.75	21.28	31.99	20.91	21.19	
Price received by farmers							
Beef cattle	do.	27.40	18.77	27.50	18.80	17.80	17.30
Veal calves	do.	31.03	21.83	31.70	22.50	20.60	19.60
Hogs							
Barrows and gilts							
Chicago							
160-180 pounds	do.	17.00	19.28	16.59	19.34	20.10	
180-200 pounds	do.	17.89	20.02	17.22	20.07	20.94	
200-220 pounds	do.	17.93	20.04	17.36	20.08	21.00	
220-240 pounds	do.	17.66	19.89	17.15	19.92	20.94	
240-270 pounds	do.	17.19	19.58	16.78	19.64	20.78	
270-300 pounds	do.	16.71	19.17	16.34	19.24	20.49	
All weights	do.	17.30	19.60	16.77	19.72	20.78	
Eight markets 3/	do.	17.05	19.49	16.71	19.65	20.62	
Sows, Chicago	do.	15.12	17.22	15.11	17.15	18.65	
Price received by farmers	do.	17.10	19.10	16.70	19.30	20.20	20.70
Hog-corn price ratio 4/							
Chicago, barrows and gilts	do.	9.3	12.5	9.1	12.7	13.3	
Price received by farmers, all hogs	do.	10.3	13.1	10.1	13.5	13.8	14.2
Sheep and lambs							
Sheep							
Slaughter ewes, Good and Choice, Chicago	do.	14.74	9.50	14.56	9.73	10.26	
Price received by farmers	do.	13.30	8.55	13.20	8.55	8.69	8.50
Lambs							
Slaughter, Choice and Prime, Chicago	do.	28.24	22.63	26.96	22.66	23.18	
Feeding, Good and Choice, Omaha	do.	---	20.45	---	20.01	20.83	
Price received by farmers	do.	26.87	23.33	25.60	20.40	20.30	20.80
All meat animals							
Index number price received by farmers (1910-14=100)		375	303	372	305	301	299
Meat							
Wholesale, Chicago	Dollars per						
Steer beef carcass, Choice, 500-600 pounds 2/	100 pounds	55.25	40.60	54.64	39.96	37.18	
Lamb carcass, Choice, 30-40 pounds	do.	5/54.13	43.22	5/53.00	42.30	43.58	
Composite hog products, including lard							
72.84 pounds fresh	Dollars	19.51	21.21	19.30	21.33	21.94	
Average per 100 pounds	do.	26.78	29.12	26.50	29.28	30.12	
71.32 pounds fresh and cured	do.	22.69	24.55	22.63	24.72	25.47	
Average per 100 pounds	do.	31.81	34.42	31.73	34.66	35.71	
Index number meat prices (BLS)							
Wholesale (1947-49=100)		113	97	112	98	94	

1/ Annual data for most series published in Statistical Appendix to this Situation, January-February 1953.
2/ Grade names as used beginning January 1951.
3/ Chicago, St. Louis N. S. Y., Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, S. St. Joseph, S. St. Paul, and Indianapolis.
4/ Number bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs.
5/ 40-50 pound lamb carcass February and March 1952.

Selected marketing, slaughter and stocks statistics for meat animals and meats 1/

Item	Unit	Jan.-March		1952	1953		
		1952	1953	March	Feb.	March	April
Meat animal marketings							
Index number (1935-39=100)		157	150	150	135	151	
Stocker and feeder shipments to 9 Corn Belt States	1,000 head						
Cattle and calves		461	403	153	86	124	
Sheep and lambs	do.	385	370	125	90	122	
Slaughter under Federal inspection							
Number slaughtered							
Cattle	do.	3,009	3,783	927	1,170	1,299	
Calves	do.	1,122	1,410	397	422	535	
Sheep and lambs	do.	3,004	3,567	971	1,088	1,190	
Hogs	do.	18,390	15,779	5,776	4,550	4,962	
Percentage sows	Percent	5.1	4.4	5.1	4.1	4.2	
Average live weight per head							
Cattle	Pounds	1,012	1,001	1,004	1,005	998	
Calves	do.	188	196	173	195	180	
Sheep and lambs	do.	104	102	105	103	103	
Hogs	do.	244	237	239	235	231	
Average production							
Beef, per head	do.	564	557	561	562	560	
Veal, per head	do.	107	111	99	110	103	
Lamb and mutton, per head	do.	49	50	50	49	49	
Pork, per head 2/	do.	134	133	132	132	131	
Pork, per 100 pounds live weight 2/	do.	55	56	55	56	57	
Lard, per head	do.	37	35	37	35	33	
Lard, per 100 pounds live weight	do.	15	15	16	15	14	
Total production	Million pounds						
Beef		1,688	2,101	518	655	725	
Veal	do.	119	155	39	46	55	
Lamb and mutton	do.	148	173	48	53	58	
Pork 2/	do.	2,463	2,093	760	601	650	
Lard	do.	682	556	213	158	164	
Total commercial slaughter 3/							
Number slaughtered	1,000 head						
Cattle		4,110		1,275	1,581		
Calves	do.	1,996		700	725		
Sheep and lambs	do.	3,224		1,038	1,180		
Hogs	do.	22,331		7,005	5,818		
Total production	Million pounds						
Beef		2,217		685	850		
Veal	do.	211		70	81		
Lamb and mutton	do.	157		51	57		
Pork 2/	do.	3,001		909	759		
Lard	do.	780		245	190		
Cold storage stocks first of month							
Beef	do.			254	264	254	232
Veal	do.			12	23	20	20
Lamb and mutton	do.			14	21	24	21
Pork	do.			794	596	605	570
Total meat and meat products 4/	do.			1,210	1,038	1,043	989

1/ Annual data for most series published in Statistical Appendix to this Situation, January-February 1953.

2/ Excludes lard.

3/ Federally inspected, and other wholesale and retail.

4/ Includes stocks of sausage and sausage room products, canned meats and canned meat products, and edible offals, in addition to the four meats listed.

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A matching projection for annual cattle and calf slaughter would carry to a high of around 40 million head. This is a great deal more than the 33 million expected in 1953. But the present slaughter includes a rather high percentage of cattle and low percentage of calves; and of the cattle, a large part is of fed cattle. In the next few years an increasing percentage of the total slaughter will be calves. Of the cattle slaughter, a rising percentage will be grass cattle. The result will be lowered average weights per head. The beef and veal supply for a growing consuming population will increase much less than would be indicated by the projections of number slaughtered. Beef might reach a top of 73 pounds per person, which would equal the previous record high of 1909. The projected 84 pounds of beef and veal, if attained, would be a new high for the two meats combined.

These comparatively high levels of beef and veal consumption represent a further gain over 1953. Nevertheless, most of the total increase from the 55 pounds of beef and the 62 pounds of beef and veal in 1951 will have been completed by the end of 1953,

All these indications of future trends are projected on the basis of past cycles in cattle. They are not forecasts. Much could happen that would cause trends to depart from past patterns. The data here are intended to gauge as accurately as possible the production potential of the present national cattle inventory, thereby showing its significance for beef supplies in the next few years.